(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Prime Minister to visit Pakistan in the near future with the reported proposals to discuss Siachen, Sir Creek and Baglihar, the issues, which he thinks can be solved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) During a speech by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on the launch of Amritsar-Nankana Sahib Bus Service in Amritsar on 24 March, 2006, Prime Minister, *inter alia,* said that "the peace making process must ultimately culminate in our two countries entering into a Treaty of Peace, Security and Friendship to give meaning and substance to our quest for shared goals. I make this offer to the people of Pakistan on this historic occasion. I am sure the leadership of Pakistan will reciprocate."

(c) During the meeting between Prime Minister and President Musharraf on 14 September, 2005 in New York, President Musharraf invited Prime Minister to visit Pakistan. Prime Minister accepted the invitation of President Musharraf. No dates have been fixed for the visit of the Prime Minister to Pakistan.

Respect to Indian tricolour in Pakistan

2765. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that during ODI game of Peshawar the Pakistan Government have failed to show the respect towards Indian Tricolour by printing Indian flag on tickets upside down;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the Indian Tricolour was being flown upside down at the hotel where Indian team was staying; if so, whether Government have taken action in the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes. The Indian flag had been incorrectly shown on the tickets for the One Day International cricket match between India and Pakistan held at Peshawar in February, 2006.

(b) and (c) Yes. It was reported in the Pakistani media that the Indian flag was incorrectly displayed in the hotel where the Indian team was

staying and that this had been corrected when pointed out. Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) was responsible for printing the tickets and for making arrangements for the Indian cricket team, including their hotel stay. The PCB Chairman apologized to the High Commission of India for the mistake, and correction was made in the tickets printed during later matches.

Opening of Consulates in Mumbai and Karachi

2766. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Consulates of India and Pakistan have been opened at Mumbai and Karachi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the consulates are expected to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) During the Foreign Secretary level meeting in June, 2004, India and Pakistan agreed, in principle, to reopen the Consulates General in Mumbai and Karachi.

Agreement was reached during President Musharraf's visit to India in April, 2005 to reopen these by the end of 2005. However, Pakistan High Commission has not been able to find premises to rent so far. India is ready to open its Consulate General in Karachi but Pakistan is insisting on simultaneous opening of the Consulates General in Mumbai and Karachi.

Subsidy for Kailash Mansarovar Pilgrimage

†2767. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the amount charged from the pilgrims going for Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage is being increased continuously;

(b) whether Government would also consider providing any subsidy on the lines of subsidy being provided for Haj Pilgrimage in order to check this increase; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.